

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**INTERMEDIATE PLANNING STUDY**  
**WEST LIBERTY BYPASS**  
**ITEM #10-8004.00**

The proposed highway project is located on the southeast side of West Liberty in Morgan County, in the eastern portion of the state. The project is defined in the *Approved 2000-2002 Biennial Highway Construction Program and Identified Preconstruction Program Plan for FY 2003 through FY 2006* (generally referred to as the *Six Year Highway Plan*) as a new route from US 460 at KY 2498 to US 460 at KY 172. Currently, the project termini are defined to be the KY 2498 intersection on the southwest side of town and KY 172 on the northeast side of town.

Year 2000 traffic along US 460 through downtown West Liberty ranges from about 2,250 vehicles per day (vpd) east of KY 172 to about 13,500 vpd near KY 2498. By the Year 2025, maximum volumes along US 460 are expected to reach about 22,100 vpd near KY 2498. With the proposed bypass link located in the southern portion of the study area, Year 2025 volumes along US 460 are expected to decrease by approximately 25 percent. Estimated traffic along the new bypass section is expected to reach 5,250 vpd (LOS C) by the Year 2025.

Based on public involvement input, goals established for this project include:

- Reduce downtown congestion and safety problems;
- Provide an alternate route for emergency vehicle operations;
- Provide for the future development of a continuous bypass link that would connect to KY 7;
- Reduce the number of through-trucks in the downtown area; and,
- Provide additional capacity for future increasing traffic volumes.

Major concerns and issues identified for the project are as follows:

- Construction activities around streams, wetlands and EPA monitored facilities may require attention, procedures and/or permits.
- Threatened and endangered species may be present in the study area, including certain species of bivalves, fish, mammals and plants. Potential undocumented archaeological sites should be investigated.
- Mixed opinions were expressed by local business owners concerning the impact of the new route on downtown establishments. It is important to identify downtown business owners and involve them in future phases of this project development process. Additional concern from the general public regarding the location of the bypass was voiced at the public meeting, with many citizens preferring a western route instead of the southern route.
- Environmental justice issues related to minority populations should be closely considered throughout further development of this project because of the high concentration of minorities within the study area.

A preferred corridor for the proposed West Liberty Bypass was identified through the course of this Intermediate Planning Study. From the KY 2498/US 460 intersection on the western side of town, the proposed corridor would proceed in an easterly direction to the KY 172/US 460 intersection on the eastern side of town. Other location options eliminated through this planning process included a corridor through the existing airport property and a western bypass link from US 460 to KY 7. Cost estimates for the West Liberty bypass corridor have been compared to currently scheduled funds. It is anticipated that fewer funds will be necessary to complete all project phases:

Phase	Current Estimate	Preferred Corridor
Design	\$500,000	\$550,000
Right-of-Way Acquisition	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Utility Relocation	\$500,000	\$500,000
Construction	\$12,500,000	\$6,500,000
Total Cost	\$16,000,000	\$10,050,000

No commitments were made during the planning phase of this project.